The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

April 6, 1995

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART APPOINTS FIRST CHIEF CURATOR

Robert P. Bergman, director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, today announced the appointment of Dr. Diane De Grazia as the museum's first Chief Curator. In making the announcement Dr. Bergman commented: "We conducted an exhaustive search that involved candidates from across the nation and from abroad. Our goal was to attract a senior museum professional of international standing who combines first-rank accomplishment as a connoisseur and scholar with experience in all phases of curatorial practice, and who has an instinct for and an interest in organizational leadership and management. Diane De Grazia was the clear choice on all counts and, in addition, is a teacher of the first rank."

Dr. De Grazia, a specialist in the fields of Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings and drawings, has spent most of her professional career at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, where from 1974-1989 she served as Curator of Italian Drawings and from 1989 to the present as Curator of Southern Baroque Painting. Prior to coming to the National Gallery she was for one year Curator of European Art at the Denver Art Museum.

At the National Gallery Dr. De Grazia was responsible for the organization of a series of major exhibitions, including Prints and Drawings by the Carracci Family (1979); Correggio and His Legacy (1984); Selected Baroque Paintings from Italian Bank Collections, also in Toronto and Bologna (1990); and Guercino: Master Painter of the Baroque, also in Bologna and Frankfurt (1991-92).

Included among Dr. De Grazia's books and catalogues are Guercino Drawings in the Art Museum, Princeton University; Prints and Related Drawings by the Carracci Family. A Catalogue Raisonne; Correggio and His Legacy: Sixteenth-Century Emilian Drawings; Le stampe del Carracci; and Bertoia, Mirola and the Farnese Court. Her recently completed The Collections of the National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalogue: Italian Paintings of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries (with Eric Garberson) will appear this spring. Her many articles and reviews deal with a variety of issues pertaining to Italian art.

During her tenure in Washington, Dr. De Grazia was appointed to three endowed visiting professorships: Visiting Andrew Mellon Professor, University of Pittsburgh (1987); Florence Stone Mather Distinguished Visiting Professor, Case Western Reserve University (1993); and

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Ruth and Clarence Kennedy Professor in the Renaissance, Smith College (1994). In 1986 she was a Guest Scholar at the J. Paul Getty Museum and in 1991 was Art Historian in Residence at the American Academy in Rome.

Dr. De Grazia has lectured extensively in this country and abroad and in 1994 presented Case Western Reserve University's Harvey Buchanan Lecture at the Cleveland Museum of Art. She has served on the editorial board of Print Quarterly and presently is a member of the editorial advisory board of Master Drawings.

Dr. De Grazia received her undergraduate degree from Smith College, an M.A. from Indiana University, and M.F.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton University. She was born in Lincoln, Nebraska and raised in Valparaiso, Indiana.

As Chief Curator, Dr. De Grazia will supervise one of the museum's largest divisions, including seven curatorial departments, the exhibition design department, and the registrarial operation. Approximately fifty individuals are included in the division, whose annual operating budget is roughly $4.5 million.

The museum's collections management, installation, exhibition and scholarly research, and publications programs are the chief responsibilities of the Curatorial Division. She will also serve as senior curator of both paintings and drawings.

Commenting on her new appointment, Dr. De Grazia said: "In our professional world Cleveland is a museum of legendary stature. That stature depends to a significant extent on the greatness of the museum's collections, its intellectual traditions, and its commitment to the community. I look forward to joining my new colleagues in forging directions that both build on traditional strengths and break new ground. With the Cleveland Museum of Art's wonderful mix of resources--and with such high community interest in its initiatives--I know the experience will be richly rewarding."

Cleveland's new Chief Curator will take up her duties full time August 1. Until then she will remain in Washington to complete projects in process at the National Gallery, but will be in Cleveland as often as her schedule permits.

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For additional information, please contact the Communications and Marketing Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland OH 44106-1797; 216/421-7340.